*Hougham Without Parish Council*

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**Tuesday 12th March 2019**

**Present:**

Councillors present:

Cllr Finnis (AF) Chairman

Cllr Lamb (JL) Vice-chairman

Cllr Don Taylor (DT)

KCC Cllr Lymer (GL)

Clerk to the Council /RFO Finnis (CF)

Plus 2 member of the public

Councillor’s apologies

Cllr Bryant (CB)

Cllr Collins (EC)

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**Minutes of the Meeting.**

18/92 To receive apologies for absence,

Chris Bryant, Eddie Collins.

18/93 To identify any member’s interests

18/94 To hear questions from the public: there were no questions from the public.

18/95 To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 8th and 29th January 2019. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were agreed as a true representation of the meeting and signed as such by Cllr Finnis.

18/96 To consider matters arising from the minutes in item18/95.

18/97 To review councillor’s reports: -

1. County and District Councillor reports.

Kent County Councillor Geoff Lymer:

A reorganisation of stroke services across Kent has been given the go ahead following a five-year review. The County's six acute stroke units are to be replaced with three specialist hyper-acute stroke units, following a decision by the Joint Committee of Clinical Commissioning Groups.

KCC has approved a council tax increase of 4.99% for the 2019/20 budget. This increase is needed to help meet a shortfall of more than £80 million, caused by the high demand on front line services, such as adult social care, special educational needs children, public health, however, this does not include Kent Highways whose annual budget is a meagre £3 million.

KCC has reviewed the Young Person's Travel Pass and whilst I must stress this is a privilege and not a right, for few other Counties operate such a scheme now. However, KCC is mindful this is of immense benefit to those on low incomes and to acknowledge this, KCC has decided to instigate a payment plan by instalments, rather than expect a one of payment.

Central Government has commissioned a review on the planning application appeals. It found the average time for appeals took 47 weeks. The Government is committed reducing this period to 26 weeks. The Committee secretary James Brokenshire stated speeding up decisions could help the government realise its target of 300 thousand homes a year by the mid 2020s

*(Cllr Lymer leaves the meeting.)*

1. Financial report.

Year end finances to be prepared end March (end of financial year). Aiming towards signing off accounts prior to end of Council period prior to elections if possible.

1. Village Green: –

Grass cutting for 2019 – 2nd year of 3-year deal with Harmer & Sons (£972.00 last year)

Mole treatment – another visit arranged by Tony Wells, Professional Mole catcher.

Weekly Inspection reports – not received as yet from Simon Withey.

Sign refurbishment.

1. Update on Skip Site issue from Environment Agency. Email from Kerrie Roche (8/3/19)
* Visited the site on 1st March 2019
* Some waste has been removed but not satisfactory as yet.
* Continuing action plan.
1. AF reported on recent Town/Parish Council Meeting with DDC.
* New local plan, there will be a new consultation and the plan updated in 2020
* Update re Brexit. Small group set up in DDC looking at the options.
* Smart Water security device - presentation. Special offer to villages. £10 per household. Action: could be asked at the Annual Village Meeting.
* New site for preyproject.com – traces stolen computers and phones. Can add 3 products from your property.
* Telephone scam – phoning on landline – Scotland Yard investigating high level fraud and banks are compromised. Convince people to get money out of banks, take it home, keep phone line open. Read out the serial numbers of bank notes. Explained as counterfeit notes, send courier round to collect money! Police advise to put phone down on any such calls.

18/98 To agree action on planning applications received

1. DOV/12/00440 Proposal: **Outline Planning** application (with all matters reserved except access) for the construction of six items including: 512 residential units, 90 apartment retirement village, health facility and associated landscaping and infrastructure and works at Great Farthingloe Farm. And for: 31 residential units, 130 bed hotel and conference centre, together with ancillary infrastructure at Western Heights. Plus the provision of pedestrian access infrastructure on land to both sites. Also a **Full Planning** application for conversion of: thatched barn to pub/restaurant, stable block to retail shop, farmhouse to bed and breakfast all at Farthingloe Farm, plus 9 residential units, a museum/visitor centre and associated landscaping at Western Heights.

After discussion and a vote the council RESOLVED to object to this application with the following comment to be sent to DDC planning officer: -

Ref DOV/12/00440.
At a meeting on 12 March 2019, Hougham Without Parish Council resolved to Object, by majority vote, to this application for the following reasons: -
1. The very high density of housing at the Farthingloe site is excessive plus there is a lack of any affordable houses.
2. The only main access road to the site (B2011) is totally inadequate for both the construction and additional local traffic.
3. Such a large development would be a major burden on existing health and education services.
4. The Farthingloe site is in an Area of Outstanding Beauty and this is valuable to our rural community.

18/99 To receive and distribute council’s correspondence.

Pre election guidance and info of election nomination received. The deadline, which is 4 pm on 3rd April 2019, and forms are available direct from DDC Office. The information has been advertised on our web site and on the Parish noticeboards since 9th March 2019.

18/100 To agree payments: -

* Clerk wages and office allowance advised
* County Taxis – Jan £48 & Feb £48 £96.00
* Village Green Inspection Jan/Feb S.Withey £100.00
* Payroll Masters £11.98
* Swing seat replacement from Playdale - paid by AF £169.78
* Tony Wells Mole catcher £60.00

*Meeting closed by Cllr Finnis at 20.57*

The next scheduled meeting of Hougham Parish Council is due on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at Hougham Village Hall, and will be confirmed during the week before.